

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Kristensen. Senator.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein and members of the Legislature. There's no reason to put on multiple amendments to discuss the issue to do that. It's sort of a pleasure, you know, to have a discussion in the morning where we're not talking about taxes, state aid to schools, pocketbook issues, things that by computer printout you can determine who a winner and who a loser is, and hopefully, we'll have some discussions this year about petitions and other matters that really go to the fundamental structures of government and how do we do what we do, when we do it, and ultimately, I hope, why we do those things. You and I cannot change the electoral college, I'm not suggesting we should even attempt to in terms of its national structure. But we do have control over one thing, and that's what occurs within our own borders. There are probably three or four of you this morning who are struggling with yourselves at this very moment about how do I vote and what should I do; I don't want this to necessarily be a partisan issue, but perhaps if I vote one way or the other, I'll get some partisan pressure. This is not one of those things where you see both parties out back in the Rotunda beating each other over the head. I don't know whether that's because they're not organized enough to do it or what, but maybe. But the real issue is, for those of you who are at this very moment trying to decide how should I vote, think of what may occur. This isn't going to change anybody's taxes. This is going to change and this is an insurance policy for the State of Nebraska that we're not going to be taking advantage of. And at some point in the future, through our inattention or through saying, well, let's let this experiment go until something bad happens. Why take that risk? Why risk something bad happening to the State of Nebraska when we know we can protect it? Is the electoral college, the world's best system for selecting a president? No. But those are for other people to decide, and perhaps some day we'll get a chance to vote on that. But we do have that chance...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...today to make one change in our electoral system that we can control, and that's to restore ourselves to every other state, save one, where there's been no other changes since 1896, and take us back to a winner take all system, protect us from some of the fringes, protect us from